

CAPTAIN THOMAS HAZZARD—HEIRS AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 687.]

MAY 4, 1860.

Mr. VANCE, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of C. A. S. Graham and Sarah T. Hazzard, heirs-at-law of Captain Thomas Hazzard, a captain in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war, have duly considered the same, and submit the following report :*

The committee, from the proofs before them, find that Thomas Hazzard was a captain in the service of the United States during the war of the revolution, and the memorialists, two aged women, are his only surviving children ; that Captain Hazzard was a man of independent circumstances prior to the war, and engaged in a prosperous business; that after the declaration of war and the invasion of our soil by the British forces, he joined the association known as the " Liberty Boys," in the city of New York, and made himself useful in any way that could serve the cause of independence ; that he equipped, at his own expense, a company of militia, which he commanded in person, and was present at the battle on Long Island, in which he participated with the other troops under the command of General Putnam, in the month of August, 1776 ; that he was among those taken prisoners, and confined in the prison known as the " old sugar-house ;" that while thus confined the whole of his property that could be reached by the invading forces was destroyed or appropriated by those who sympathized with the British court, and who seized upon the opportunity to do so ; that property exceeding twenty thousand dollars in value was thus destroyed, so that when he was finally released from prison he found himself utterly impoverished ; that the said Captain Hazzard never received any compensation from the United States for these losses, nor for the moneys expended in equipping the company of militia as aforesaid, nor did he during his life ever make a claim for any relief, but said that " when my children need it they can apply."

The facts above stated are well sustained by the sworn evidence

filed in the case, which leaves no doubt in the minds of your committee that Captain Hazzard was among those patriots who risked life and fortune for their country's cause, and that his aged and infirm children deserve a just and proper indemnity for the sacrifices and services of their father, which opinion was fully concurred in by the Committee on Revolutionary Claims during the thirty-fifth Congress, a minority of whom, as is shown by the deposition of one of the members of it, insisted that full twenty thousand dollars should be allowed, but the majority fixed upon six thousand dollars as a fair and equitable allowance, and accordingly reported House Bill No. 22 of that session for the relief of the claimants, but before the case could be acted upon the papers, which were taken charge of by the Hon. Jacob Broom for the purpose of giving them the requisite attention, were accidentally mislaid, and not recovered until the present session of Congress.

Your committee, though the abundant proof before them might have warranted them in increasing the sum allowed by their predecessors to the memorialists, have concluded not to do it, but feel at liberty to say that the sum of six thousand dollars is a very moderate indemnity, considering all the facts and circumstances of the case, and accordingly report a bill for that amount, and respectfully ask its passage.

In conclusion, your committee beg leave to state that as the memorialists, who are far advanced in life, and in exceedingly needy circumstances, and have been delayed for four years by the mislaying of the papers and proofs referred to, they are entitled to all possible expedition on the part of Congress in adjusting their claim before the adjournment of the present session.